

# Media Release



For Immediate Release:

## **PADS is presented with Donner Canadian Foundation Award**

**November 19, 2008 (Toronto)** Pacific Assistance Dogs (PADS) of Burnaby B.C. was today presented a Donner Canadian Foundation Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Social Services.

PADS breeds raises, trains and places highly skilled assistance dogs with persons who have a physical disability or who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. Assistance dogs reduce dependence on others and enhance quality of life. PADS clients are affected by conditions such as multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, polio and post-polio syndrome, arthritis, spinal cord injuries and partial or complete deafness. Dogs are trained to their utmost potential and then carefully matched by temperament and skill set to client personality and needs. PADS is the only assistance dog school in Canada that is fully accredited by Assistance Dogs International (ADI), and places service, hearing and therapy dogs throughout Western Canada.

As PADS becomes more widely known, the number of people requesting and waiting for an assistance dog has increased dramatically. PADS embarked on an ambitious plan in 2006 to enhance capacity which in the past 2 years has seen construction of a new client centre and puppy training facility, the growth of the breeding puppy raising program and the hiring of new apprentice instructors to train the increased number of needed dogs.

While this is PADS third trip to Toronto as Donner Awards finalist, it is the first time PADS has had the privilege to stand at the podium as an award winner. PADS has grown considerably since first being chosen as a finalist in 2005 and the lessons and experience gained through involvement in the Donner Awards has helped us plan our direction and shape our growth. Consequently we believe our past participation in the application and assessment process contributed in a positive manner to our development as an organization and the honour bestowed upon us today.

Our success can also be attributed to our dedicated staff and the strong ongoing support from our legion of dedicated and talented volunteers, without whom our amazing work would not be possible.

For more information:

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